GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2492
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
CULTIVATION AND PROMOTION OF BT. COTTON
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and names of States where BT. Cotton seeds are being used extensively;

(b) whether increase in productivity has been utilised;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has issued guidelines to various States to promote BT. Cotton seeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response from the States thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a),(b)&(c) The Bt Cotton seeds are being used by the farmers in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, M.P., Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa. As per information available in the Office of Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), with the adoption of Bt Cotton between 2002 and 2007, the average yield of cotton in India, which had one of the lowest yields in the world, increased from 308 kg per hectare in 2001-02, to 520 kg per hectare in 2006-07.At a national level, Bt cotton is a major factor contributing to higher cotton production which increased from 15.8 million bales in 2001-02, to 24.4 million bales in 2005-06, to 28 million bales in 2006-07,which was a record cotton production for India. The quantum leap in cotton production since 2002-03 has been triggered by improved seeds and particularly the increasing plantings of improved Bt cotton in the cotton growing states.

(d) & (e) No, Sir.